

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 05482 060942Z
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S E C R E T MANILA 5482

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, RP
SUBJECT: GOVERNOR KEON ON ALLEGED US INTERVENTION IN PHILIPPINE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS

REF: (A) MANILA 2757, (B) MANILA 3571

1. DURING A MARCH 31 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, ELIZABETH KEON, GOVERNOR OF ILOCOS NORTE AND SISTER OF PRESIDENT FERDINAND E. MARCOS, STATED ANGRILY THAT USG WAS VIOLATING PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY AND MEDDLING IN THE INTERNAL GOP AFFAIRS. IN A REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR NEWSOM'S MARCH 6 DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS REGARDING THE RELEASE FROM PRISON OF FORMER SENATOR BENIGNO "NINYO" AQUINO, GOVERNOR KEON STATED: "YOU SEND YOUR GOD DAMNED U.S. AMBASSADOR HERE TO 'DEMAND' THAT AQUINO BE RELEASED." KEON ADDED THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S APPROACH REGARDING AQUINO'S RELEASE WAS THE BASIS FOR THE ANTI-AMERICAN PRESS CAMPAIGN AND THE PRESIDENT'S ON-GOING ATTACKS ON FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THE CURRENT ELECTIONS. GOVERNOR KEON SAID MARCOS HAD INTERPRETED THIS APPROACH AS CONCRETE PROOF THE USG WAS BENT ON INTERFERING IN THE PHILIPPINES AND POSSIBLY EVEN WORKING TOWARD DESTRUCTION OF THE "NEW SOCIETY." RHETORICALLY, GOVERNOR KEON ASKED: "WHY DON'T THE AMERICANS REALIZE
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HOW MUCH BETTER OFF THE PHILIPPINES IS UNDER PRESIDENT MARCOS THAN WITH THE LAWLESSNESS AND ECONOMIC STAGNATION OF THE OLD POLITICS?"

2. GOVERNOR KEON WENT ON TO RELATE HOW PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS HAD SPENT THE EVENING OF MARCH 23 AT HER QUEZON CITY HOME HUDDLED WITH CLOSE AIDES DISCUSSING

THE FULL RAMIFICATION OF THE PERCEIVED AMERICAN INTER-
FERENCE. GOVERNOR KEON SAID THE EVENING DISCUSSION WAS
HIGHLY EMOTIONAL. BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY
SPENT THE BULK OF THE EVENING DENOUNCING THE AMERICAN
"DEMAND" FOR NINOY AQUINO'S RELEASE.
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